

City life is cool; but is country life cooler?



Apparently yes. After the terrible Covid-19 epidemic of 2020, lots of people (1) _____ like to leave their city and live in the country.

More and more people in Britain want to live in the country, and this is causing more and more problems in (2) _____ rural areas.

The population of British cities has been falling (3) _____ years. Cities like Liverpool and Glasgow have lost about 30% of their population in 30 years. But Britain's population is (4) _____ growing. Where are the people going? To the country

The English countryside has a classic image. People imagine that life in the country is slow and calm; that there are no traffic jams, no (5) _____, and no crime. In some places, this is true; but in (6) _____ it is not. Small towns and villages are becoming more and more popular; people have more space and (7) _____ houses have gardens. But problems are growing. Lots of people want to live in the country and work in the city; (8) _____ more and more people travel long distances each day, to go to work. Of course they don't use buses (they are (9) _____ slow) or trains (they don't stop in the country); they use cars. And (10) _____ they live in the country, they want to use supermarkets and good fast roads.... but they do not want to see them or hear them. (11) _____, lots of young people say that life in the country is boring; there is hardly anything to do, there are not (12) _____ activities and excitements.

Little villages now have traffic problems in the morning, just like big cities! And they are getting worse. The problems are very complicated! If everyone moves into the country, large parts of the countryside (13) _____ disappear! People leave cities and big towns, to escape from urban problems; but more and more, they are bringing their problems with them.

(14) _____ warm summer days, and cold winter days, air pollution can be a big problem in large parts of the south of England, not just in London. Traffic jams are now often part of life, even in the country; crime has become a serious problem in rural areas.

Perhaps there is hope for the future. Soon Britain's population will stop rising. From about the year 2030, it will perhaps start to fall. In 100 year's time, there will be less people in Britain (15) _____ today - perhaps two million less. No doubt there will be less pollution too; oil and petrol will probably be rare by then.

ALREADY	ALTHOUGH	BECAUSE	BESIDES	DURING
ENOUGH	FOR	MOST	ON	OTHERS
POLLUTION	SO	SOME	STILL	THAN
TOO	WILL	WOULD		